# DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS ANNOUNCES CHANGES**

PIERRE —Corrections Secretary Tim Reisch announced today that he is creating a new policy position within his department to improve the way his department does business.

"Governor Rounds wants the SD Department of Corrections to become a model for other states to replicate" said Reisch. "We have excellent administrators and staff, but our count has risen so dramatically in recent years that we're really being challenged in some areas."

The development of an operational audit team, hiring additional staff to double-check release dates and handle inmate records, and the creation of a new policy manager position, are just three changes Reisch intends to implement.

The operational audit team will conduct inspections of critical areas in each of the state's juvenile and adult institutions on an annual basis.

"Things that are checked well, tend to get done well," said Reisch of his audit team concept.

The department recently requested a technical assistance visit from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) to review their central inmate records operation in  Sioux Falls . The team from NIC found that the staffing numbers have not kept pace with the ever-growing number of files they have to keep current.

"We are going to work within our budget constraints to get the office staffed correctly" said Reisch.

Following the legislative session, Reisch conducted a review of the workload at the Central Office in Pierre . Based on that review, he decided that a new policy manager position should be created to develop and administer policy as well as conduct program and operation audits.

"Governor Rounds wants this department to be the best it can be," said Reisch. "These are just the initial steps. The Governor's taskforce to review sentencing and options to incarceration is definitely a step in the right direction as well."

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